

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NIC-01 DPW-01 EUR-25 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6621
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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, ID

SUBJECT: MALIK ON CHINA

REF : JAKARTA 3851

SUMMARY: IN HIS LATEST PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT, INDONESIAN
FORMIN MALIK EMPHASIZED THAT RESUMPTION OF GOI- PRC RELATIONS
WOULD HAVE TO BE PRECEDED BY THE " EDUCATION" OF OVERSEAS
CHINESE WHO ARE STILL ORIENTED TOWARD CHINA. HE ALSO NOTED
THAT INDONESIA DOES NOT WISH TO GET AHEAD OF OTHER ASEAN
NATIONS ON THIS ISSUE. FOLLOWING BASED ON VARIOUS
JAKARTA PRESS ACCOUNTS. END SUMMARY

1. AT HIS REGULAR WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 25,
FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK EMPHASIZED THAT INDONESIA IS IN NO
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HURRY TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. IMPLYING THAT THE CHINESE HAVE MORE TO GAIN, MALIK (ACCORDING TO VERSION IN DAILY KOMPAS), REVEALED THAT CHI PENG FEI HAD APPROACHED HIM AT 12- NATION CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM AND ALLEGEDLY ASKED THAT RELATIONS (FROZEN SINCE 1967) BE QUICKLY RESTORED. MALIK SAID GOI HADN' T RESPONDED TO THIS REQUEST, ABOVE ALL BECAUSE OF PROBLEM OF OVERSEAS CHINESE, SOME OF WHOM WERE STILL " ORIENTED" TOWARD CHINA. MALIK SAID THAT THESE PEOPLE NEEDED TO BE " EDUCATED", THAT IT MIGHT TAKE AS LONG AS TEN YEARS, AND THAT EFFORTS ALONG THESE LINES HAD ALREADY COMMENCED, E. G., IN WEST KALIMANTAN (SITE OF BORNEO INSURGENCY AND HOME OF LARGE ETHNIC CHINESE MINORITY). MALIK REFERRED TO ASSURANCES FROM CHOU EN LAI THAT PRC IS NO LONGER CONDUCTING SUBVERSION IN INDONESIA, AND ALSO NOTED PEKING POSITION THAT OVERSEAS CHINESE SHOULD BE LOYAL TO COUNTRIES WHERE THEY LIVE, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROBLEM REMAINED FOR INDONESIA ANYWAY. HE SAID THAT PRC LEADERS UNDERSTOOD RESULTING INDONESIAN RELUCTANCE TO MOVE TOO FAST TOWARD NORMALIZATION.

2. MALIK ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH ASEAN RELATIONS WITH CHINA ARE NOT SUBJECT TO " UNIFORM" POLICY, INDONESIA DID NOT WISH TO " GET AHEAD" OF OTHER ASEAN NATIONS IN NORMALIZING AND HAS AGREED TO CONSULT WITH OTHERS BEFORE HAND. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH MOST ASEAN MEMBERS FACE AN OVERSEAS CHINESE PROBLEM, THE EXACT NATURE OF THE PROBLEM DIFFERS FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT: MALIK' S EMPHASIS ON " OVERSEAS CHINESE PROBLEM" GIVES A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TWIST TO HIS STANDARD POSITION THAT RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS HINGES ON INTERNAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. WE ARE SKEPTICAL OF HIS ALLEGATION THAT CHINESE ARE EAGERLY SEEKING NORMALIZATION AND HAVE MORE TO GAIN THAN INDONESIA.
TOUSSAINT

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